

REMARKS

The above-noted amendments are respectfully submitted in response to the official action dated July 31, 2006. The amendments to the Specification are made in order to correct typographical errors and no new matter is included therein.

It is initially noted that claims 12 and 13 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention without prejudice to applicant's filing of a divisional application directed thereto. In addition, claim 5 has been canceled, and the limitations of prior claim 5 have been included in claim 1 as amended. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowed if presented in independent form, the incorporation of the limitations of claim 5 into claim 1, thus presenting claim 5 in independent form, clearly establishes the patentability of amended claim 1. As for claims 6-9, the Examiner's attention is directed to newly added claims 56-59 herein which are intended to correspond to prior claims 6-9. Thus, claim 56 corresponds to claim 6 in independent form, and claims 57-59 correspond to claims 7-9, all of which were also said to be directed to patentable subject matter. Finally, the Examiner has already indicated that claims 10, 11, and 14-55 are allowed.

As for the status of prior claim 1, applicant has amended that claim and agreed to the acceptance of the allowed claims in this application in order to expedite the issuance of a patent based on this application. These amendments are thus made without prejudice to the possible filing of a continuation application directed to the subject matter of prior claim 1.

In any event, in view of the fact that all of the claims in this application are now admittedly directed to patentable subject matter, applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's allowance of this application. If, for any reason, however, the Examiner does not believe that such action can be

taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have to the immediate allowance of this application.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: December 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Arnold H. Krumholz
Registration No.: 25,428
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant

719329_1.DOC